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REMARKS

I. Status Of Claims

Claims 1-10 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is amended herein. Claim 6 is canceled. Therefore, upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 1-5 and 7-10 will be pending. No new matter has been introduced by the present amendment. Reconsideration of the application as amended and based on the arguments set forth hereinbelow is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,683,498 to Burns et al. (hereinafter, "Burns"). Further, Claims 1-4 and 7-9 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,650,652 to Mizutani et al. (hereinafter, "Mizutani"). In addition, Claim 10 stands rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizutani or Burns. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner objected to Claim 6 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Official Action, page 6.) Original Claim 6 depended from Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to include the

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features of canceled Claim 6. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of Claim 1 should be withdrawn and the claim allowed at this time.

Claims 2-5 and 7-10 depend from Claim 1. Thus, the comments presented above relating to amended Claim 1 apply equally to Claims 2-5 and 7-10. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejections of Claims 2-5 and 7-10 be withdrawn and the claims allowed at this time.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

As previously stated, the Examiner objected to Claim 6 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Original Claim 6 depended from Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of canceled Claim 6. Claims 2-5 and 7-10 depend from Claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-5 and 7-10 are in form for formal allowance and applicant respectfully requests same.

IV. Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

If any minor issues should remain outstanding after the Examiner has had an opportunity to study the Amendment and Remarks, it is respectfully requested that the

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Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney so that all such matters may be resolved and the application placed in condition for allowance without the necessity for another Action and/or Amendment.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

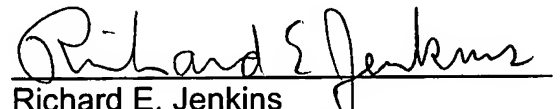
Although it is believed that no fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies of payment associated with the filing of this Response to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS, WILSON & TAYLOR, P.A.

Date: November 19, 2004

By:


Richard E. Jenkins
Registration No. 28,428

REJ/BJO/gwc

Customer No. 25297

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